

## CLAIMS:

1. A luminous body with a housing (1) having a light emission surface (6) and a plurality of light sources (3, 5) arranged in the housing (1) whose light is radiated at least substantially in a direction parallel to the light emission surface (6), wherein inner walls of the housing (1) reflect the light at least partly.
- 5 2. A luminous body as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light sources are laterally emitting LEDs (3, 5).
3. A luminous body as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light sources each  
10 comprise an LED element (3) and a lens body (5) provided thereon and emitting the light substantially in a direction perpendicular to its axis.
4. A luminous body as claimed in claim 3, wherein the LED elements (3) are  
15 inserted into a bottom surface (2) of the housing (1), and the lens bodies (5) extend through a cover plate (4) arranged over the bottom surface (2).
5. A luminous body as claimed in claim 3, wherein surfaces of the lens bodies (5)  
facing the light emission surface (6) are provided with a coating (7) which reflects light  
components issuing from said bodies at least substantially.
- 20 6. A luminous body as claimed in claim 3, wherein an intermediate layer (8) is provided which extends over the lens bodies (5) and which has a coating in the region of the surfaces of the lens bodies (5) facing the light emission surface (6), which coating reflects  
light components issuing from said bodies at least substantially.
- 25 7. A luminous body as claimed in claim 3, wherein the light emission surface is formed by a partly transparent, diffusely scattering diffuser plate (6).

8. A luminous body as claimed in claim 7, wherein the transmittance of the diffuser plate (6) is reduced in those regions which lie opposite the lens bodies (5).
9. A luminous body as claimed in claim 7, wherein the diffuser plate (6)  
5 comprises a phosphor material that converts the color of the light passing through.
10. A luminous body as claimed in claim 7, wherein the light emission surface (6) is covered with an optical foil which allows light to pass through substantially only within certain angular regions.